

The greening of '76 takes on golden glow

By Roger Boye

IT WILL TAKE \$4,000 to own one "official" souvenir of the nation's Bicentennial, a keepsake that's 3 inches in diameter and .900 fine gold.

That is what the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration [ARBA] is charging for what is being called the "official national Bicentennial medal."

The medal, showing the Statue of Liberty on the "heads" side, was designed by Frank Gasparro, chief engraver of the U. S. Mint, and was produced at the U. S. Mint. Congress directed that "a national medal shall be struck commemorating 1776 and its significance to American independence," and this medal was made to fulfill that order.

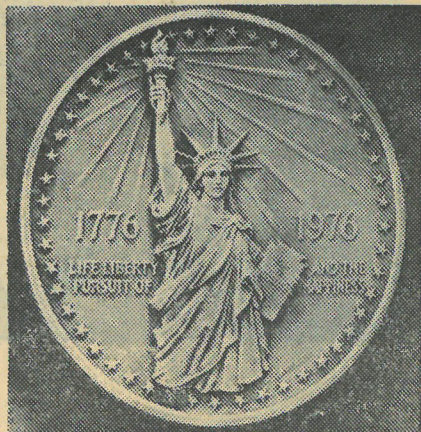
If you have less extravagant tastes, you can buy a one-and-five-sixteenths-inch gold medal for [only] \$400. A three-inch, .925 silver medal costs \$150, and a 1½-inch bronze is \$5.

To order, write to ARBA, P.O. Box 1976, San Francisco, Cal. 94101. Orders will be accepted through July 31.

COLLECTORS SHOULD receive better service when ordering coin sets and medals from the U. S. Mint, under new Mint rules which took effect this week.

The rules were a response to new guidelines for the mail order industry announced by the Federal Trade Commission.

The Mint says it will ship material during the announced time period. If it doesn't, it will notify the person ordering and provide him or her "the option to cancel the order by means of a postage-paid card." If the buyer cancels, the



Obverse of Bicentennial medal

Mint says it will send a refund within seven days.

ONE YOUNG coin collector from each state will be awarded a scholarship to attend the American Numismatic Association [ANA] annual seminar in Colorado Springs, Colo.

A scholarship applicant must be between the ages of 11 and 17 and must write a 100-word essay on "Why I Am a Collector." Applications are available from the ANA, 818 N. Cascade Av., Colorado Springs, Colo. 80901. Completed application must be submitted by May 31.

The scholarships, funded by the Franklin Mint, the nation's largest private mint, cover cost of classroom materials, field trips, and round-trip transportation to Colorado Springs. The week-long coin collecting seminar begins July 4.